

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 SY-05

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P 212344Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7544

UNCLAS MEXICO 12155

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC MX (FRONCZAK, SANDRA)

SUBJECT: W/W: SANDRA FRONCZAK

REF STATE 229840

1. AS DEPT IS AWARE, EMBASSY HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN PRECISE INFO AND DATES FROM MEXICAN AUTHORITIES WORKING ON FRONCZAK CASE, AND INFO WE HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED HAS OFTEN BEEN ALTERED OR DENIED LATER. NEVERTHELESS, FOLLOWING IS OUR ESTIMATE OF APPROX TIMETABLE OF SEARCH FOR MRS. FRONCZAK'S BODY: SEARCH FOR BODY COMMENCED VERY SOON AFTER DISCOVERY OF SEMMELROTH'S BODY, AND BY MID-JUNE AUTHORITIES WERE SEARCHING "BLACK LAGOON" WITH DIVERS, WHILE OTHER GROUPS SEARCHED BEACHES AND UNPOPULATED AREAS IN AND NEAR ACAPULCO. SEARCH OF LAGOON WAS ABAONDONED ABOUT JULY 1, AND AT THIS POINT OR WITHIN TWO OR THREE WEEKS THEREAFTER, ACTIVE SEARCH FOR BODY WAS DISCONTINUED PENDING FURTHER CLUES. AS RESULT OF EMBASSY PRODDING, SEARCH FOR BODY WAS RESUMED AROUND MID-AUGUST. DRAINING OF LAGOON BEGAN ABOUT SEPT. 1 AND LASTED THREE DAYS, BUT PRODUCED NO RESULTS. POLICE ARE NOW DRAGGING OR DIGGING IN BEACH WHERE SEMMELROTH'S BODY WAS FOUND. EMBASSY SENT RERO- DUCED PHOTOS OF MRS. FRONCZAK TO ATTY GEN ACOSTA SEPT. 7 BY MAIL; HE HAS PROMISED TO CIRCULATE PHOTOS IN ACAPULCO AREA WITH OFFER OF 20,000 PESO REWARD.

2. CONSUL PERKINS STOPPED AT CHILPANCINGO SEPT. 20 TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF CASE WITH AG ACOSTA AND REPORTED FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED

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INFO BY TELEPHONE:

A. WHEN PHOTOGRAPHS OF SANDRA ARE RECEIVED THEY WILL BE CIRCULATED IN ACAPULCO WITH OFFER OF REWARD OF 20,000 PESOS. (NOTE: PHOTOS WERE MAILED SEPT. 7 BUT DUE TO SLOW MAIL SERVICE HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED.)

B. DRAINING OF LAGOON WAS FINISHED ABOUT SEPT. 4 WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

C. AUTHORITIES ARE NOW USING TRACTOR TO DRAG BEACH WHERE BODY OF SEMMELROTH WAS FOUND.

D. THAT TO DATE FIFTY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INTERROGATED IN SEARCH FOR FOUR CIVILIANS.

E. A "SPECIAL" POLICEMAN IS STILL WORKING WITH TWO ARRESTED POLICEMEN IN ATTEMPTO TO OBTAIN MORE INFO FROM THEM.

F. COPIES OF CONFESSIONS OF TWO ARRESTED POLICEMEN AS WELL AS COPY OF BALLISTIC REPORT WERE GIVEN TO CONSUL PERKINS, AND WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPT FOR FORWARDING TO FAMILIES UPON RECEIPT HERE.

3. WITH REF TO PARA 4 OF STATE 229840 EMBASSY CANNOT FURNISH MEANINGFUL ESTIMATE OF "MISSING PERSONS" IN MEXICO. THIS WOULD ENTAIL COMPLETE CHECK OF FILES FOR PAST TWO YEARS WHICH EMBASSY CAN ILL AFFORD AT THIS TIME DUE TO STAFF SHORTAGE. EVEN PROVIDED ADEQUATE STAFF TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK, RESULTS WOULD BE MEANINGLESS, AS IN MOST INSTANCES EMBASSY FILES DO NOT CONTAIN CONCLUSION OF CASES IN WHICH MISSING PERSONS TURNED UP SAFELY. THOMPSON

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